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Some of the Very Coldest Days in the World's History.

(Cleveland Herald.)

It is a bit of a coincidence that the comet upon which Napoleon's soldiers gazed seventy years ago, when they were making that dreadful march from Moscow, which resulted in the death from cold and exposure of 400,000 men, should be accompanied on its reappearance with a bitter cold spell of weather. When it swept out of sight the world witnessed an unusually severe winter. The incident, as well as the present cold snap, recalls other severe winters. In October, 763, and February, 764, the denizens of the cities of mosques and minarets were astonished by a cold spell of weather, and the two seas at Constantinople were frozen over for twenty days. In 1063 the Thames was frozen over for fourteen weeks. In 1497 the cold was so intense in England that all small birds perished, and in 1433 the large fowls of the air were driven by the terrible cold into the towns and cities of Germany.

In 1438 the winter was so severe in Flanders that the wine distributed was cut with hatchets.

The year 1658 was noted for cold weather in England. Thousands of forest and shade trees were split by frost, birds and stock perished, a line of stages ran on the Thames for several weeks, and shops were built on the ice in the middle of the Thames.

In 1691 the wolves were driven by the cold into Vienna, where they attacked men and cattle on the streets. In 1810 quicksilver froze in the thermometer bulbs at Moscow. One of the most remarkable changes of temperature was witnessed at Hornsey and Hammersmith, near London, in 1867. The thermometer was 3 degrees below zero on the 4th of January, and seventy-two hours later it had leaped to 55 degrees above zero.

With respect to America some of the remarkable cold spells were as follows: In 1730, and again in 1821, New York harbor was frozen over so that teams were driven across the ice to Staten Island. The neighboring State of Indiana saw weather cold enough to congeal the mercury in 1865. The winter of 1881 was made memorable by cold weather. On the 13th and 26th days of January, many deaths occurred from the intense cold, and the inhabitants of Mobile saw the thermometer sink to zero.

A record of cold sieges would be imperfect without a mention of the terribly sudden storm that swept over the country in 1863, which has gone into history as the cold New Year's. A drayman was frozen to death in Cincinnati while driving along the street; a man climbing a fence in Minnesota froze to death and toppled over into the snow, while the loss of human and animal lives in all parts of the country was immense.

There will be five eclipses during 1884—three of the sun, none of which will be visible in this country and two of the moon, both of which will be visible in this country, the first, a partial eclipse, occurring early in the morning of April 10th, and the other a total eclipse occurring in the evening of October 4th.

All in the Family.

Texas Settings.

"Your father was nothing but a simple stone mason."
"I know where you got that information," quietly remarked the other. "From whom did I get it?"
"From your father."
"How do you know that?"
"Because your father was my father's hodgecarrier."

January Choice Literature.

The January issue of this excellent magazine, which begins a new volume, contains the following interesting and valuable array of contents: The New Hero, by Theodore Watts, an entertaining study on the way poets and artists treat child-life; The Political Condition of Spain, by an eminent Spanish authority; Luther in Politics by Karl Blind, one of the most scholarly and brilliant of English essayists; Alexander Von Humboldt, a biographical and critical study by the President of the University of Berlin; The Ethics of Aristotle, a delightful and scholarly study by E. M. Clerk; Evolutionary Ethics and Christianity, a very strong article by Goldwin Smith; Ancient International Law, by H. Brougham Leach, one of the highest living authorities; Outcast Russia, a very powerful and harrowing article by the imprisoned Prince Krapotkin. Also briefer entertaining and valuable articles: In Milford Sound, by Harriet Kaye; The Scramble of wealth, by a London Artisan; Popular Banking, and People's Banks, from Chambers Journal, giving especially valuable information concerning people's banks in Germany; Reminiscences of Thérwaldsen; Evolution and Mind; and Science Notes, by W. M. Williams. All this, in large type, and excellent magazine form, for ten cents, or monthly at \$1 per year. John B. Alden, Publisher, 18 Vesey Street, New York.

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COPIED COMMENTS.

THE CHINESE FASHION.

In China when a young man wants to get a wife he sends a present of boiled rice to the girl's mother. When he wants to get rid of an oppressive and all-pervading mother-in-law, however, he proceeds as they do in civilized countries. He goes out and hangs himself.—Louisville Commercial.

ALWAYS IN FRONT.

A young American lady named Wheelock, who has been studying music in Paris, France, recently attracted the attention of a director of an Italian opera and was engaged by him for his company. She made her debut a few days since under the name of Mile Volda as "Elvira" in "Hernani," and was greatly applauded. With Mary Anderson, Lotta and Mile Volda, America may take front rank on both the dramatic and lyric stages.—Henderson Journal.

THE POETS FATE.

He came slowly and sadly into our office. His hair was long, and his small mustache was coated with icicles. He had a weak voice when he slowly said:

"This is a cold cruel world; genius is not appreciated, I long for a better world."

"We have feelings for the poor and needy; and if anybody appreciates genius we do, said the scribe."

"Well I will see. Now I have composed a beautiful poem, which I will read to you." The boys showed some uneasiness at this moment, some retiring to see Pat Nolan, and one went to tell the devil to set the trigger.

Our visitor slowly commenced: "Oh, I love to see the beautiful snow!" Bang—smoke—corpses. The janitor slowly carried him to the undertaker with the following note. "Charge to the office."—B. G. Times.

Congressman Holman, the New York Sun's candidate for President, will probably be the Democratic nominee for Governor of Indiana.

In 1854 there were 254 daily papers published in the United States. In 1860 the number had increased to 387, in 1870 to 574, and in 1880 to 981. The circulation, which in 1850 was but 758,454, reached over 3,500,000 copies in 1880. The average circulation of the daily newspapers is placed by the census compilers at 3,704, which must reduce the actual circulation of a great many dailies far below the paying point. The average circulation of weeklies connected with dailies is 3,219, and of those not connected with dailies 1,824.

In concluding an article on the last corn crop an Alabama editor remarked: "We have on exhibition in our sanctum a magnificent pair of ears."

L'ENFANT TERRIBLE.

It was in the cars. The ladies were sitting together, busily engaged in conversation. On the seat facing them sat a little 5-year-old boy. He had been looking out at the window, apparently absorbed in contemplation of the moving panorama of the outside world. Suddenly he turned from the window; he began searching about the car, exclaiming in a high, piping voice: "Mamma, which man is it that looks so funny?" "Sh!" cautioned his mother. But the boy wasn't to be hushed. "I don't see the man with the bald head, mamma, and the funny red nose." The "ah" was repeated. By this time the car was in a titter, save and excepting one elderly gentleman with a very bald head and a very red nose. His eyes were riveted upon his paper with a fixedness that was quite frightful. Again the boy: "Oh! now I see him! Hol! what a bright nose! What makes it so red, mamma?" "George!" shouted his mother in a stage whisper. But George was not to be stopped. "Mamma," he continued, "what made you say he had a light-house on his face? I don't see no light-house." Again "George!" and this time with a slight shake. Once more the piping voice, the bald-headed passenger gazing at his paper more fiercely than ever and growing redder every moment. "Mamma, I don't think his head looks like the State House dome. It's shiny like it, but it isn't so yellow." While the titter went round again, George's mother whispered rapidly to the boy, and gave her hopeful a box on each ear, which seemed to partially divert his attention from the bald-headed passenger, but not entirely. He cried once more, through his tears: "You said his nose was as red as a beet, mamma; I didn't say nothing!" Strange to say, the bald-headed passenger didn't take part in the suppressed laughter that followed; but he put on his hat, and hid his nose in his paper, over which he glared at the boy as though he wanted to eat him. And yet, wherein was the boy to blame?—Boston Transcript.

THE MYSTERY OF HOTEL CONVERSATION.

Under all circumstances, whether the occasion be one of courtesy or condolence, joy or sorrow, an American weaves into his speech idiomatic expressions and conversational surprises the more grotesque that they are so unconsciously delivered. Nothing is more comical than the puzzled astonishment of the English tourist at the ordinary conversation of steamboat and railroad passengers in this country, and their endeavors to reconcile the utterances of the speakers with their utterly unaccounted expressions.

"Waiter," said a guest at a hotel breakfast table, in the most matter-of-fact way, and without changing a muscle of his face, "these flannel cakes seem to have been stamped out of sole-leather by a steam die."

"Yess'r," replied the equally unconcerned waiter.

"Just send up a plateful to my room; I'll have my boots half soled with them," continued the matter-of-fact boarder, as he sampled another dish.

"All right, sir," responded the imperturbable waiter as he changed the plates.

But a couple of just arrived Londoners, sitting at the same table, were profoundly mystified, and even ordered cakes to test their durability personally.

Victor Hugo mixes water liberally with his wine.

NEWSPAPER WORK AND WORKERS.

In an article on "Newspaper Work and Workers" it is truthfully remarked that there is no other profession but enjoys immunity from observation as to its modes. The preacher writes in the privacy of his study, and can concoct platitudes or pad out plagiarisms that would be the ruin of the editor and the reporter. The lawyer consults his client and organizes his campaign in private, bringing into court only as much as makes for his cause and against the cause of his adversary. The doctor plies his potions and launches in his lancet in secret. If the patient recovers, it may be the medicine or it may be in spite of it; if he die, it may be the pills or Providence, the physician is scathless. None of these come to light that their deeds may be reproved.

Moreover, the work of the press is continuous, as well as constantly public. There is no rest for the weary. Space is no more annihilated by telegraph than time by journalism. The evening and the morning are not merely the first day but all the seven. Night is annihilated as to all its quantities of repose.

Every minute of every hour of the twenty-four is occupied by some workers doing some work that shows itself in the newspapers of the day and afternoon. Repetition is as impossible as rest.

Facts are ever new. Comments must be as fresh as facts, and the edition is the remorseless giant that eats up all the seconds. The making of newspapers is perpetual motion in a thousand fields. In such a work, demanding ceaseless effort, permitting no pause, exacting eternal and over-varying exercise, it is impossible for wheat to be unmixed with chaff, for accuracy not to be impaired by mistakes, for injustice not occasionally to be done.

PRIVATE ABUSE OF A NEWSPAPER.

Some people think they are very smart when they abuse a newspaper or editor. They forget that many papers have largely profited by becoming the objects of these attacks, and that some editors have thriven on being assaulted.

Aside from this consideration, it should be remembered that an editor is often obliged to carry a very delicate position. His sense of right will sometimes cause him to attack or defend a man, a business, a class or a cause at the risk of making enemies of others, only to find those in whose interests he has labored display ingratitude.

Of course no level-headed editor expects to find much gratitude or charity. He must generally be content with the approval of his own conscience, and pursue the course he believes to be right, regardless of either frowns or smiles, supported by his conscious rectitude.

It will come all right in the end. It is hard to be misunderstood, and to find those to whose support you have earned a right desert you to meet alone the attacks of those you have incensed in pursuing the course you were convinced was right, but you will thereby learn a lesson of self-reliance, and form a habit of judging entirely for yourself that will be invaluable. You will be able to tell the truth, however distasteful, and refuse to utter a falsehood, no matter how much pleasant it may promise to make things go.

Zachariah Taylor, while drunk was frozen to death in Henderson. A great name did not save him from an ignoble death.

"THE TRUE BLUE"

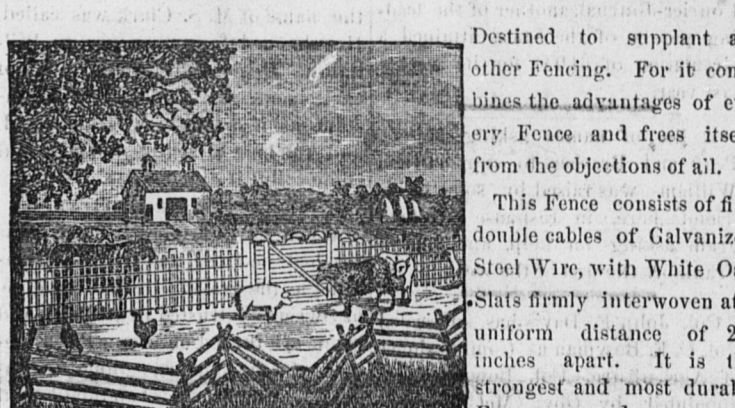


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